

An Experimental inquiry into
 The Cathartic Properties
 of the
Pedophyllum - Pallatum

By

Jedain Cotton Moore
 of
 North Carolina

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
 And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Gray

Philadelphia
 1825

It has ever been
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It has ever been to me a subject both of astonishment
and regret, that the virtues of our own indigenous plants have
not been more attended to and their application to the manage-
ment of diseases more general. Let us but cast our eyes over the
pages of any late popular work on the subject of Materia
Medica, and how few are the articles there mentioned that we
recognize as the productions of the United States. True indeed they
are, but in this little number we claim to have made some
of the most valuable contributions of any country since the
introduction of this subject to the world. Should this not
urge us to hope that by investigating the properties of those
plants that ornament our hills and valleys many are yet
in reserve to reward the diligence of any who may turn
their attention to this object, and that the day is not far
distant, when we shall be as independent of the old world
for our resources in medicine as we are in our institutions
or government. Is not the climate of the United States as
propitious as that of any other section of the habitable
world? Are not her lands as congenial to the growth
of the vegetable creation? How it is that in all that eastern

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give tract of Country stretching from Maine to Georgia
 from the Atlantic to the Pacific we may find a region
 adapted to the production of such articles as we receive
 from the pleasant plains of France or Spain or from cold
 and inhospitable Liberia or Sweden. What an ample field
 is thus opened to the speculations and experiments in the
 abundance and variety of the productions of our land. Perhaps
 in the secluded valley or mountainous sequester some articles are
 yet to be discovered possessed of powers capable of reaching the
 seat of some of those diseases that now stand in the list of
 the opprobria Medicorum, and as monuments of the inefficacy of
 our art. Is it rational to suppose that our country which nature
 has thrown in her most magnificent and beautiful mould, should
 be stunted or niggardly in her articles adapted to remedial
 purposes? And if our Rivers, Lakes, Plains and Mountains speak
 an approach to perfection, we cannot for a moment suppose that
 the work is defective in the visible part of Creation!!!

Having offered these few introductory
 remarks I propose to give in the following lines
 the result of a course of experiments made with

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one of our own indigenous roots in contrast with
an article of high and deserved celebrity as a
cathartic—the latter being also an inhabitant of
the New world, but not of that portion included
within the boundaries of the United States. The
articles in question are the *Podophyllum Peltatum*
and *Conocaulus Salapa*. These experiments I
respectfully submit to my able and very disting-
uished instructors being confident, that no attention
or criticism on my part has been wanting to render
them as accurate as the nature of the case would
permit—giving to each a fair and unprejudiced
trial.

The *Conc Salapa* or the plant
hitherto described by *Linnaeus*, *Willdenow*, *Woodville*
and others by this title was first discovered, growing
near the city *Salapa* in Mexico—it was afterwards
supposed to be an inhabitant of the United States
also, as identical with the *Opismaea Macrochiza*
of *Michaux* the father. Of the truth of this identity

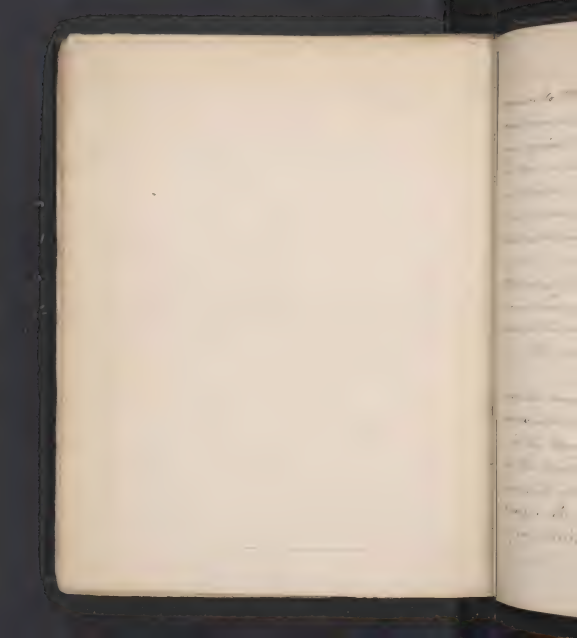
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I shall not pretend to determine, but leave it to those more skillful in the Botanical history of the articles under consideration. Having been introduced into the Materia Medica it became an object of considerable Medical research and has from that time down to the present supported an unimpaired reputation. Its sensible properties are thus described by a distinguished Professor. "It is brought to us in thin transverse slices, which are covered with a blackish wrinkled bark, are of a dark grey colour internally, marked with darker or blackish stripes. It has a nauseous smell and taste; and when swallowed it affects the Throat with a sense of heat and occasions a plentiful discharge of Saliva. When powdered it has a yellowish grey colour," and combined with Calomel it is a remedy of undoubted utility in many of the diseases to which our climate is subject. For as it is subject to some disadvantages disagreeable in their nature, such as griping and

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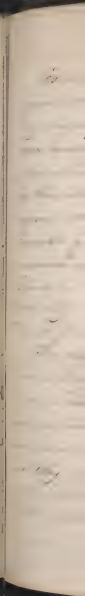


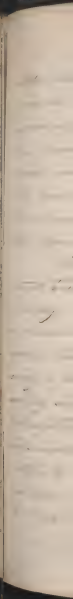


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The first thing I did in the morning of the
1st of June was to go to the office and
see what was going on. I found that the
mail had come. The first letter was from
my father. He was very well and
wrote me a long letter. He told me
that he was very glad to hear from me
and that he was well. He also told me
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The first of these is the fact that
the number of the population has
increased very rapidly in the last
century. This is due to a number of
causes. One of the most important
is the improvement in the means of
transportation. This has enabled
people to travel more easily and
cheaply than ever before. Another
cause is the improvement in the
means of subsistence. This has
enabled people to live more easily
and cheaply than ever before. A
third cause is the improvement in
the means of education. This has
enabled people to live more easily
and cheaply than ever before.

There is also a fourth cause
which is the improvement in the
means of health. This has enabled
people to live more easily and
cheaply than ever before.

1840

1841

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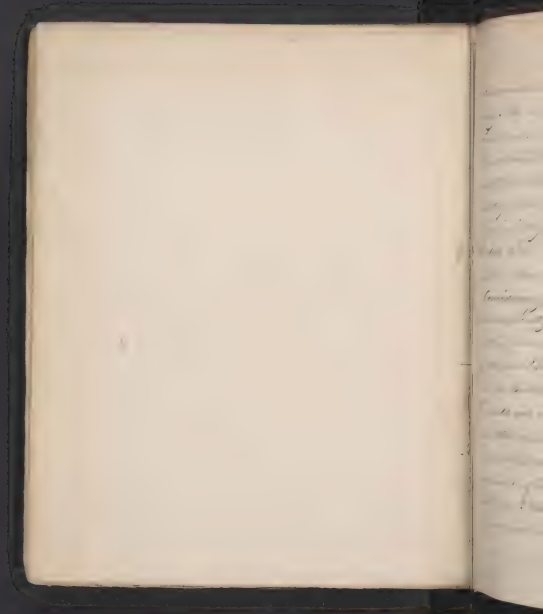
1851

1852

1853

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I have been thinking of you
 very much lately, and wondering
 how you are getting on. I hope
 you are well and happy. I have
 been very busy lately, but I
 have managed to find some time
 to write to you. I have been
 thinking of you very much lately,

considering what a long time it
 has been since we last saw
 each other. I have been very
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